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AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of Sponsor

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 2321**

**House Bill No. 2124\***

by deleting in its entirety all the language following the enacting clause, and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. (a) There is created a task force to identify the major health issues facing people over sixty-five (65) having the greatest impact upon the health and well-being of such individuals, exclusive of issues relating to long-term care.

(b) The task force shall be composed of thirteen (13) members to be appointed as follows:

(1) One (1) member of the House Health and Human Resources Committee and one (1) member of the House Consumer and Labor Affairs Committee, each to be appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) One (1) member of the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee and one (1) member of the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee, each to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate;

(3) The Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health;

(4) The Executive Director of the Commission on Aging, or the executive director's designee;

(5) The Commissioner of Human Services, or the commissioner's designee;

(6) A physician with knowledge of geriatrics; a representative of the American Association of Retired Persons; a representative of a senior citizen agency; a minister; and one (1) citizen over sixty-five (65) years of age, each to be appointed by the

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governor; and one (1) certified geriatric specialist, to be appointed by the Tennessee Physical Therapy Association.

(c) All appointments shall be made no later than September 1, 1998, to enable the task force to begin its study and file its report within the time established in Section 3.

SECTION 2. The task force shall:

(1) Identify prevention strategies which could affect the health conditions of people over sixty-five (65) and improve the quality of life;

(2) Identify at what age such prevention strategies would have their best potential for improving health; and

(3) Identify problems the elderly experience in getting appropriate treatment for chronic diseases which afflict the elderly.

SECTION 3. The task force shall complete its study and file its final report by January 1, 2000, including any recommendations for necessary legislative action, with the members of the House Health and Human Resources Committee, the members of the House Consumer and Labor Affairs Committee, the members of the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee, the members of the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee, and the governor. Upon the filing of such report, the task force shall cease to exist.

SECTION 4. Non-legislative members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the commissioner of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

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SECTION 5. The Commission on Aging created by Tennessee Code Annotated 71-2-101, shall provide staff assistance to the task force created pursuant to this act including, but not limited to, the following duties and responsibilities:

- (a) Compile information about issues and unmet needs of the elderly, as well as strategies being used across the nation to address such issues and needs;
- (b) Work with the department of health and other departments and agencies of state government to integrate and enhance services for the elderly;
- (c) Provide information to area agencies on aging, county and regional health councils, and other agencies and organizations serving elderly persons to increase awareness of the needs of elderly residents; and
- (d) Develop partnerships with public and private social services and health agencies in an effort to:
  - (1) Increase awareness of the general population concerning issues facing the elderly;
  - (2) Increase awareness of senior citizens about measures they can take to stay as healthy as possible; and
  - (3) Improve the knowledge of health professionals regarding geriatric preventive and maintenance care.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

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